

**RADICULAR SYNDROMES—With Emphasis on Chest Pain Simulating Coronary Disease**—David Davis, B.S., M.D., The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois, Chicago, 1957. 266 pages, \$6.50.

This book is a personal account of Doctor Davis' experiences with patients with chest pain simulating coronary disease whose basic difficulty was radiculitis from cervical arthritis. The book has a rather complete account of radicular syndromes in the cervical and thoracic spine and gives in some detail a series of cases personally observed and treated which support the author's thesis. It is extremely valuable to have this differential diagnostic entity called to our attention because of the differences in prognosis of the two diseases. The only criticism one might have toward the book is that at times Doctor Davis becomes a protagonist rather than an impartial, objective appraiser of the facts. One may wonder whether relief of chest pain with traction necessarily means that the chest pain was of radicular origin because of the psychological impact of physical therapy. The author is aware of this, however, and comments on other findings such as local tenderness and limitation of motion which support the radicular syndrome rather than coronary disease.

In view of the frequency and importance of chest pain from arthritis of the cervical and thoracic spine this book would be of importance to all practitioners.

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**AN ATLAS OF CARDIAC SURGERY**—Jorge A. Rodriguez, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgical Anatomy and Research Association, Department of Surgery, University of Mississippi Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1957. 250 pages, \$18.00.

This admirably assembled atlas of cardiac surgery is being published at a time when a real need exists for such a compendium. The rapid progress in the development of new techniques used in the management of congenital and acquired cardiac disease has far outstripped the ability of standard textbooks of surgery to keep abreast. Up to now the only available means for a student to become familiar with the field has been to read the original publications of a variety of surgeons appearing in numerous surgical journals. Lacking the experience for careful selection, the student is frequently only bewildered by the volume of published papers flooding the literature. Dr. Rodriguez has described and accurately illustrated the currently most acceptable methods and techniques in cardiac surgery.

Inasmuch as this field is being pioneered by a relatively small number of surgeons, each of whom has been noteworthy in the development of selected areas of cardiac surgery, it is apparent that an atlas of this type should be a summary of the experience of these specific men. The author has carefully selected surgeons whose reported results indicate proficiency. He indicates in the Preface that he has visited the clinics and operating rooms of each of these surgeons and from this experience has compiled, with the aid of drawings, a digest of their methods. Each procedure is linked with the name of the surgeon whose method is described.

The four main sections on cardiac surgery in the atlas are: I. Surgery of the great vessels, II. Surgery of the valves of the heart, III. Surgery of congenital defects of the heart, and IV. Pericardiectomy, revascularization procedures, wounds of the heart and cardiac arrest. When there is a significant difference of opinion between two surgeons, the method of each is described. The stages of each operative procedure are described, both in the text and in the accompanying drawings. When there are anatomic or pathologic variations associated with the same clinical syndrome, the variations are illustrated.

A separate section of the book deals with adjuvants to cardiac surgery. In this section are discussed instruments, anesthesia, hypothermia and mechanical, extracorporeal circulation. As in the operative descriptions, the author describes the methods and opinions of specific individuals and clinics.

One of the remarkable portions of this publication is the section: Surgical anatomy of the heart and great vessels. In this section Dr. Rodriguez, who is primarily a surgical anatomist, draws upon his personal experience in the dissecting room. As he indicates, "Classical anatomical descriptions of the heart may be inadequate and even misleading, because such descriptions are based on study of the heart removed from the chest cavity. In preparing the plates and descriptions, particular emphasis has been placed on those anatomical landmarks which are basic to the execution of surgery on the heart and great vessels."

In this reviewer's opinion "An Atlas of Cardiac Surgery" should have priority in the studies of surgeons now entering the field of cardiac surgery. The book is also of value to the cardiologist, internist or general practitioner who desires to be conversant with the principles of cardiac surgery. Although the author has not included a bibliography, the student will most certainly find that his study of surgical journals will be more expeditiously directed with the material in this volume as a background.

EDWIN J. WYLIE, M.D.

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**A NAVY SURGEON IN CALIFORNIA 1846-1847—The Journal of Marius Duvall**—Fred B. Rogers (editor). Designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy, published by John Howell, San Francisco, California, 1957. \$10.00.

Bernard DeVoto wrote a few years ago a history entitled, *The Year of Decision, 1846*. Certainly 1846 was a year of decision for California, and the events of that exciting period are most interestingly told in "A Navy Surgeon in California 1846-1847—The Journal of Marius Duvall."

This medical man, assistant surgeon on the ship *Portsmouth*, takes an observant interest in the affairs of California. While, for the most part away from his medical duties, he writes on the spot of the Bear Flaggers, the Mormons and the Spanish Californians, there is important information relating to Fremont regarding the Berreyesa and de Haro killings.

Duvall helps to bring to life an important part of California history and his heretofore unpublished account belongs in every California library.

This beautifully designed and printed book is the work of Lawton Kennedy, one of California's leading printers.

Colonel Rogers is to be congratulated for editing, and Warren Howell for publishing this significant account.

ALBERT SHUMATE, M.D.

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**X-RAY TECHNOLOGY**—Charles A. Jacobi, B.Sc., R.T. (A.R.X.T.), M.T. (A.S.C.P.), M.T. (A.M.T.), Head, X-Ray Technology, Oregon Technical Institute, Oretch, Oregon; and Donald E. Hagen, R.T. (A.R.X.T.), Instructor, X-Ray Technology, Oregon Technical Institute. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1957. 410 pages, \$9.75.

Instructional material used for the teaching of students of x-ray technique has been brought together into this convenient volume. There are 18 chapters and a glossary. Elementary x-ray physics and electricity, darkroom technique, and anatomic technique for the different body sites are clearly outlined. The illustrations are mostly reproductions of those published in Merrill's "Atlas of Roentgenographic Positions," to which author due credit is given.

The glossary is a comprehensive one and the index adequate. The manual will be of use to students of x-ray technique.